

PROPOSED: 10/16/2023

RESOLUTION NO. 164-2023(COTW),
First Reading

By Council President Hart

A Resolution in support of House Bill 420; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland Heights enacted Ordinance No. 75-2022 on July 2, 2022, which amended Chapter 749, *Fair Practices*, of the Codified Ordinances to ban conversion therapy for minors; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio House of Representatives is considering House Bill 420 ("HB 420") which would ban this form of "therapy" statewide; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 75-2022 cited several professional organizations that have publicly found "conversion therapy" does not work to convert a member of the LGBTQIA+ community into a member of the so called "straight" community, but rather that such form of "conversion therapy" actually does harm; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance NO. 75-2022 cited several leading professional organizations with findings including the following:

- The American Psychiatric Association which declared that conversion therapy was based on the false assumption that homosexuality was a mental disorder, or a condition, which could be changed by conversion therapy thirty (30) years ago; and
- A task force of the American Psychological Association which declared that conversion therapy does not work and can cause confusion, depression, social withdrawal, suicidality, substance abuse, self-hatred, high-risk sexual behaviors, and a feeling of being dehumanized; and
- The American Psychological Association which issued a directive in 2009 advising that such therapy and other efforts that treat homosexuality as a mental illness were not appropriate and calling for psychotherapy, social support, and education services that provide accurate information on sexual orientation and sexuality, increased family and school support and reduced rejection of sexual minority youth; and
- The American Academy of Child Adolescent Psychiatry which published a statement in its journal in 2022 that "[g]iven that there is no evidence that efforts to alter sexual orientation are effective, beneficial or necessary and the

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possibility that they carry the risk of significant harm, such interventions are contraindicated"; and

- The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association Council on Scientific Affairs, the National Association of Social Workers, the American Counseling Association Governing Council, and the Psychoanalytic Association which all have asserted in reports or position statements that sexual orientation change efforts, including reparative therapy or conversion therapy are not recommended and may be harmful; and
- The Pan American Health Organization issued a statement in 2012 that "[t]hese supposed conversion therapies constitute a violation of the principles of health care and violate human rights that are protected by international and regional agreements"; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 75-2022 passed the Council unanimously and was signed by the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, several other communities in Ohio have also passed bans of this inhuman form of "therapy"; and

WHEREAS, this has created a patchwork of places this type of "therapy" is banned and where it is permitted in Ohio.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, that;

SECTION 1. This Council and the Mayor of the City of Cleveland Heights hereby express their strong support for HB 420, the "Protecting Youth from Conversion Therapy Act" and ask all State Senators and Representatives to vote yes for HB 420 thereby creating a uniform law throughout the state banning this form of therapy.

SECTION 2. Notice of the passage of this Resolution shall be given by publishing the title and abstract of its contents, prepared by the Director of Law, once in one newspaper of general circulation in the City of Cleveland Heights.

SECTION 3. The Clerk of Council is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to State Representative Juanita O. Brent, State Senator Kent Smith, Governor Mike DeWine, the Speaker of the Ohio House, Minority Leader of the Ohio House, Ohio Senate President, and the Minority Leader of the Ohio Senate.

SECTION 4. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective as an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the inhabitants of the city of Cleveland Heights, such emergency being the need to express timely support of HB 420. Wherefore, provided it receives the affirmative vote of five or more members elected or appointed to this Council, this

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Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time allowed by law.

MELODY JOY HART
President of Council

ADDIE BALESTER
Clerk of Council

PASSED: _____

Presented to Mayor: _____ Approved: _____

KAHLIL SEREN
Mayor